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Patrick M. Byrne

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA**

ROBERT HUNTER BIDEN.

Plaintiff,

vs.

PATRICK M. BYRNE

Defendant.

} Case No.: 2:23-CV-09430-SVW-PD
} Judge: Honorable Stephen V.
} Wilson
} Courtroom: "10A"

**STIPULATION FOR PROTECTIVE
ORDER WITH GOOD CAUSE
STATEMENT AND ORDER**

STIPULATION FOR PROTECTIVE ORDER

IT IS HEREBY STIPULATED by and between the parties to ROBERT HUNTER BIDEN v. PATRICK M. BYRNE (collectively the “Parties”), by and through their respective counsel of record, that in order to facilitate the exchange of information and documents during discovery which may be subject to confidentiality limitations on disclosure due to federal laws, state laws, and privacy rights, the Parties stipulate as follows:

1. In this Stipulation and Protective Order, the words set forth below shall have the following meanings:

a. "Proceeding" means the above-entitled proceeding in the United States District Court of the Central District and bearing Case No.: 2:23-cv-09430-SVW-PD.

b. "Court" means the Honorable Stephen V. Wilson, or any other judge to which this Proceeding may be assigned, including Court staff participating in such proceedings.

c. "Confidential" means any Documents, Testimony, or Information which is in the possession of a Designating Party who believes in good faith that such Documents, Testimony, or Information is entitled to confidential treatment under applicable law.

d. "Confidential Materials" means any Documents, Testimony, or Information as defined below designated as "Confidential" pursuant to the provisions of this Stipulation and Protective Order.

e. "Highly Confidential" means any information which belongs to a Designating Party who believes in good faith that the Disclosure of such information to another Party or non-Party would create a substantial risk of serious financial or other injury that cannot be avoided by less restrictive means

f. "Highly Confidential Materials" means any Documents, Testimony, or Information, as defined below, designated as "Highly Confidential"

1 pursuant to the provisions of this Stipulation and Protective Order.

2 g. "Designating Party" means the Party that designates
3 Documents, Testimony, or Information, as defined below, as "Confidential" or
4 "Highly Confidential."

5 h. "Disclose" or "Disclosed" or "Disclosure" means to reveal,
6 divulge, give, or make available Materials, or any part thereof, or any information
7 contained therein.

8 i. "Documents" means (i) any "Writing," "Original," and
9 "Duplicate" as those terms are defined by California Evidence Code Sections 250,
10 255, and 260, which have been produced in discovery in this Proceeding by any
11 person or entity, and (ii) any copies, reproductions, or summaries of all or any part
12 of the foregoing.

13 j. "Information" means the content of Documents or Testimony.

14 k. "Testimony" means all depositions, declarations, or other
15 testimony taken or used in this Proceeding.

16 2. The Designating Party shall have the right to designate as "Highly
17 Confidential" only the Documents, Testimony, or Information that the Designating
18 Party in good faith believes would create a substantial risk of serious financial or
19 other injury, if Disclosed to another Party or non-Party, and that such risk cannot
20 be avoided by less restrictive means.

21 3. The entry of this Stipulation and Protective Order does not alter, waive,
22 modify, or abridge any right, privilege, or protection otherwise available to any
23 Party with respect to the discovery of matters, including but not limited to any
24 Party's right to assert the attorney-client privilege, the attorney work product
25 doctrine, or other privileges, or any Party's right to contest any such assertion.

26 4. Any Documents, Testimony, or Information to be designated as
27 "Confidential" or "Highly Confidential" must be clearly so designated before the
28 Document, Testimony, or Information is Disclosed or produced. The parties may

1 agree that a case name and number are to be part of the "Highly Confidential"
2 designation. The "Confidential" or "Highly Confidential" designation should not
3 obscure or interfere with the legibility of the designated Information.

4 a. For Documents (apart from transcripts of depositions or other
5 pretrial or trial proceedings), the Designating Party must affix the legend
6 "Confidential" or "Highly Confidential" on each page of any Document containing
7 such designated material.

8 b. For Testimony given in depositions the Designating Party may
9 either:

10 i. identify on the record, before the close of the deposition,
11 all "Confidential" or "Highly Confidential" Testimony, by specifying all portions
12 of the Testimony that qualify as "Confidential" or "Highly Confidential;" or

13 ii. designate the entirety of the Testimony at the deposition
14 as "Confidential" or "Highly Confidential" (before the deposition is concluded)
15 with the right to identify more specific portions of the Testimony as to which
16 protection is sought within 30 days following receipt of the deposition transcript. In
17 circumstances where portions of the deposition Testimony are designated for
18 protection, the transcript pages containing "Confidential" or "Highly Confidential"
19 Information may be separately bound by the court reporter, who must affix to the
20 top of each page the legend "Confidential" or "Highly Confidential," as instructed
21 by the Designating Party.

22 c. For Information produced in some form other than Documents,
23 and for any other tangible items, including, without limitation, compact discs or
24 DVDs, the Designating Party must affix in a prominent place on the exterior of the
25 container or containers in which the Information or item is stored the legend
26 "Confidential" or "Highly Confidential." If only portions of the Information or item
27 warrant protection, the Designating Party, to the extent practicable, shall identify
28 the "Confidential" or "Highly Confidential" portions.

1 5. The inadvertent production by any of the undersigned Parties or non-
2 Parties to the Proceedings of any Document, Testimony, or Information during
3 discovery in this Proceeding without a “Confidential” or “Highly Confidential”
4 designation, shall be without prejudice to any claim that such item is “Confidential”
5 or “Highly Confidential” and such Party shall not be held to have waived any rights
6 by such inadvertent production. In the event that any Document, Testimony, or
7 Information that is subject to a “Confidential” or “Highly Confidential” designation
8 is inadvertently produced without such designation, the Party that inadvertently
9 produced the document shall give written notice of such inadvertent production
10 within twenty (20) days of discovery of the inadvertent production, together with a
11 further copy of the subject Document, Testimony, or Information designated as
12 “Confidential” or “Highly Confidential” (the “Inadvertent Production Notice”).
13 Upon receipt of such Inadvertent Production Notice, the Party that received the
14 inadvertently produced Document, Testimony, or Information shall promptly
15 destroy the inadvertently produced Document, Testimony, or Information and all
16 copies thereof, or, at the expense of the producing Party, return such together with
17 all copies of such Document, Testimony or Information to counsel for the producing
18 Party and shall retain only the “Confidential” or “Highly Confidential” materials.
19 Should the receiving Party choose to destroy such inadvertently produced
20 Document, Testimony, or Information, the receiving Party shall notify the
21 producing Party in writing of such destruction within ten (10) days of receipt of
22 written notice of the inadvertent production. This provision is not intended to apply
23 to any inadvertent production of any Document, Testimony, or Information
24 protected by attorney-client or work product privileges. In the event that this
25 provision conflicts with any applicable law regarding waiver of confidentiality
26 through the inadvertent production of Documents, Testimony or Information, such
27 law shall govern.

1 6. In the event that counsel for a Party receiving Documents, Testimony
2 or Information in discovery designated as "Confidential" or "Highly Confidential"
3 objects to such designation with respect to any or all of such items, said counsel
4 shall advise counsel for the Designating Party, in writing, of such objections, the
5 specific Documents, Testimony or Information to which each objection pertains,
6 and the specific reasons and support for such objections (the "Designation
7 Objections"). Counsel for the Designating Party shall have thirty (30) days from
8 receipt of the written Designation Objections to either (a) agree in writing to de-
9 designate Documents, Testimony, or Information pursuant to any or all of the
10 Designation Objections and/or (b) file a motion with the Court seeking to uphold
11 any or all designations on Documents, Testimony, or Information addressed by the
12 Designation Objections (the "Designation Motion"). Pending a resolution of the
13 Designation Motion by the Court, any and all existing designations on the
14 Documents, Testimony, or Information at issue in such Motion shall remain in
15 place. The Designating Party shall have the burden on any Designation Motion of
16 establishing the applicability of its "Confidential" or "Highly Confidential"
17 designation. In the event that the Designation Objections are neither timely agreed
18 to nor timely addressed in the Designation Motion, then such Documents,
19 Testimony, or Information shall be de-designated in accordance with the
20 Designation Objection applicable to such material.

21 7. Access to and/or Disclosure of Confidential Materials shall be
22 permitted only to the following persons or entities:

23 a. the Court;

24 b. (1) Attorneys of record in the Proceeding and their affiliated
25 attorneys, paralegals, clerical and secretarial staff employed by such attorneys who
26 are actively involved in the Proceeding and are not employees of any Party; (2) In-
27 house counsel to the undersigned Parties and the paralegal, clerical and secretarial
28 staff employed by such counsel. Provided, however, that each non-lawyer given

1 access to Confidential Materials shall be advised that such materials are being
2 Disclosed pursuant to, and are subject to, the terms of this Stipulation and Protective
3 Order and that they may not be Disclosed other than pursuant to its terms;

4 c. those officers, directors, partners, members, employees and
5 agents of all non-designating Parties that counsel for such Parties deems necessary
6 to aid counsel in the prosecution and defense of this Proceeding; provided, however,
7 that prior to the Disclosure of Confidential Materials to any such officer, director,
8 partner, member, employee or agent, counsel for the Party making the Disclosure
9 shall deliver a copy of this Stipulation and Protective Order to such person, shall
10 explain that such person is bound to follow the terms of such Order, and shall secure
11 the signature of such person on a statement in the form attached hereto as Exhibit
12 A;

13 d. court reporters in this Proceeding (whether at depositions,
14 hearings, or any other proceeding);

15 e. any deposition, trial, or hearing witness in the Proceeding who
16 previously has had access to the Confidential Materials, or who is currently or was
17 previously an officer, director, partner, member, employee or agent of an entity that
18 has had access to the Confidential Materials;

19 f. any deposition or non-trial hearing witness in the Proceeding
20 who previously did not have access to the Confidential Materials; provided,
21 however, that each such witness given access to Confidential Materials shall be
22 advised that such materials are being Disclosed pursuant to, and are subject to, the
23 terms of this Stipulation and Protective Order and that they may not be Disclosed
24 other than pursuant to its terms;

25 g. outside experts or expert consultants consulted by the
26 undersigned Parties or their counsel in connection with the Proceeding, whether or
27 not retained to testify at any oral hearing; provided, however, that prior to the
28 Disclosure of Confidential Materials to any such expert or expert consultant,

counsel for the Party making the Disclosure shall deliver a copy of this Stipulation and Protective Order to such person, shall explain its terms to such person, and shall secure the signature of such person on a statement in the form attached hereto as Exhibit A. It shall be the obligation of counsel, upon learning of any breach or threatened breach of this Stipulation and Protective Order by any such expert or expert consultant, to promptly notify counsel for the Designating Party of such breach or threatened breach; and any other person or entity that the Designating Party agrees to in writing.

8. Access to and/or Disclosure of Highly Confidential Materials shall be permitted only to the following persons or entities:

a. Trial Counsel for the Parties, their partners and associates, and staff and supporting personnel of such attorneys, such as paralegal assistants, secretarial, stenographic and clerical employees and contractors, and outside copying services, who are working on this Proceeding (or any further proceedings herein) under the direction of such attorneys and to whom it is necessary that the Highly Confidential Materials be Disclosed for purposes of this Proceeding. Such employees, assistants, contractors and agents to whom such access is permitted and/or Disclosure is made shall, prior to such access or Disclosure, be advised of, and become subject to, the provisions of this Protective Order. "Trial Counsel," for purposes of this

Paragraph, shall mean outside retained counsel and shall not include in-house counsel to the undersigned Parties and the paralegal, clerical and secretarial staff employed by such in-house counsel;

b. outside experts or expert consultants consulted by the undersigned Parties or their counsel in connection with the Proceeding, whether or not retained to testify at any oral hearing; provided, however, that prior to the Disclosure of Highly Confidential Materials to any such expert or expert consultant, counsel for the Party making the Disclosure shall deliver a copy of this Stipulation

1 and Protective Order to such person, shall explain its terms to such person, and shall
2 secure the signature of such person on a statement in the form attached hereto as
3 Exhibit A prior to the Disclosure of Highly Confidential Materials. It shall be the
4 obligation of Trial Counsel, upon learning of any breach or threatened breach of
5 this Stipulation and Protective Order by any such expert or expert consultant, to
6 promptly notify Trial Counsel for the Designating Party of such breach or
7 threatened breach;

8 c. any person who authored, received, saw or was otherwise
9 familiar with Documents, Testimony, or Information or thing designated "Highly
10 Confidential," including any person otherwise familiar with the Highly Confidential
11 Information contained therein, but only to the extent of that person's prior
12 familiarity with the Highly Confidential Information;

13 d. court reporters in this Proceeding (whether at depositions,
14 hearings, or any other proceeding); and

15 e. the Court.

16 9. Confidential Materials and Highly Confidential Materials shall be used
17 by the persons or entities receiving them only for the purposes of preparing for,
18 conducting, participating in the conduct of, and/or prosecuting and/or defending the
19 Proceeding, and not for any business or other purpose whatsoever.

20 10. Any Party to the Proceeding (or other person subject to the terms of
21 this Stipulation and Protective Order) may ask the Court, after appropriate notice to
22 the other Parties to the Proceeding, to modify or grant relief from any provision of
23 this Stipulation and Protective Order.

24 11. Entering into, agreeing to, and/or complying with the terms of this
25 Stipulation and Protective Order shall not:

26 a. operate as an admission by any person that any particular
27 Document, Testimony, or Information marked "Confidential" or "Highly
28 Confidential" contains or reflects trade secrets, proprietary, confidential or

1 competitively sensitive business, commercial, financial or personal information; or
2 b. prejudice in any way the right of any Party (or any other person
3 subject to the terms of this Stipulation and Protective Order):

4 i. to seek a determination by the Court of whether any
5 particular Confidential Materials or Highly Confidential Materials should be
6 subject to protection under the terms of this Stipulation and Protective Order; or

7 ii. to seek relief from the Court on appropriate notice to all
8 other Parties to the Proceeding from any provision(s) of this Stipulation and
9 Protective Order, either generally or as to any particular Document, Material or
10 Information.

11 12. Any Party to the Proceeding who has not executed this Stipulation and
Protective Order as of the time it is presented to the Court for signature may
thereafter become a Party to this Stipulation and Protective Order by its counsel's
signing and dating a copy thereof and filing the same with the Court, and serving
copies of such signed and dated copy upon the other Parties to this Stipulation and
Protective Order.

13. Any Information that may be produced by a non-Party witness in
discovery in the Proceeding pursuant to subpoena or otherwise may be designated
by such non-Party as "Confidential" or "Highly Confidential" under the terms of
this Stipulation and Protective Order, and any such designation by a non-Party shall
have the same force and effect, and create the same duties and obligations, as if
made by one of the undersigned Parties hereto. Any such designation shall also
function as consent by such producing non-Party to the authority of the Court in the
Proceeding to resolve and conclusively determine any motion or other application
made by any person or Party with respect to such designation, or any other matter
otherwise arising under this Stipulation and Protective Order.

14. If any person subject to this Stipulation and Protective Order who has
custody of any Confidential Materials or Highly Confidential Materials receives a

1 subpoena or other process (“Subpoena”) from any government or other person or
2 entity demanding production of such materials, the recipient of the Subpoena shall
3 promptly give notice of the same by electronic mail transmission, followed by either
4 express mail or overnight delivery to counsel of record for the Designating Party,
5 and shall furnish such counsel with a copy of the Subpoena. Upon receipt of this
6 notice, the Designating Party may, in its sole discretion and at its own cost, move
7 to quash or limit the Subpoena, otherwise oppose production of the Confidential
8 Materials or Highly Confidential Materials, and/or seek to obtain confidential
9 treatment of such materials from the subpoenaing person or entity to the fullest
10 extent available under law. The recipient of the Subpoena may not produce any
11 Confidential Materials or Highly Confidential Materials pursuant to the Subpoena
12 prior to the date specified for production on the Subpoena.

13 15. Nothing in this Stipulation and Protective Order shall be construed to
14 preclude either Party from asserting in good faith that certain Confidential Materials
15 or Highly Confidential Materials require additional protection. The Parties shall
16 meet and confer to agree upon the terms of such additional protection.

17 16. If, after execution of this Stipulation and Protective Order, any
18 Confidential Materials or Highly Confidential Materials submitted by a Designating
19 Party under the terms of this Stipulation and Protective Order is Disclosed by a non-
20 Designating Party to any person other than in the manner authorized by this
21 Stipulation and Protective Order, the non-Designating Party responsible for the
22 Disclosure shall bring all pertinent facts relating to the Disclosure of such
23 Confidential Materials or Highly Confidential Materials to the immediate attention
24 of the Designating Party.

25 17. This Stipulation and Protective Order is entered into without prejudice
26 to the right of any Party to knowingly waive the applicability of this Stipulation and
27 Protective Order to any Confidential Materials or Highly Confidential Materials
28 designated by that Party. If the Designating Party uses Confidential Materials or

1 Highly Confidential Materials in a non-Confidential manner, then the Designating
2 Party shall advise that the designation no longer applies.

3 18. Where any Confidential Materials or Highly Confidential Materials, or
4 Information derived therefrom, is included in any motion or other proceeding before
5 the court in this case, the Parties and any involved non-party shall comply with the
6 terms and conditions of this Stipulation and Protective Order as well as any
7 applicable Rules of Court. With respect to discovery motions or other proceedings,
8 the following shall apply: If Confidential Materials, Highly Confidential Materials,
9 or Information derived therefrom are submitted to or otherwise disclosed to the
10 Court in connection with discovery motions and proceedings, the same shall be
11 separately filed under seal with the clerk of the Court in an envelope marked:
12 “CONFIDENTIAL – FILED UNDER SEAL PURSUANT TO STIPULATION
13 AND PROTECTIVE ORDER FOR CONFIDENTIALITY OF THE SUBMITTED
14 MATTER.”

15 19. The Parties shall meet and confer regarding the procedures for use of
16 any Confidential Materials or Highly Confidential Materials at trial and shall move
17 the Court for entry of an appropriate order.

18 20. Nothing in this Stipulation and Protective Order shall affect the
19 admissibility into evidence of Confidential Materials or Highly Confidential
20 Materials, or abridge the rights of any person to seek judicial review or to pursue
21 other appropriate judicial action with respect to any ruling made by the Court
22 concerning the issue of the status of any Confidential Materials or Highly
23 Confidential Materials.

24 21. This Stipulation and Protective Order shall continue to be binding after
25 the conclusion of this Proceeding and all subsequent proceedings arising from this
26 Proceeding, except that a Party may seek the written permission of the Designating
27 Party or may move the Court for relief from the provisions of this Stipulation and
28 Protective Order. To the extent permitted by law, the Court shall retain jurisdiction

1 to enforce, modify, or reconsider this Stipulation and Protective Order, even after
2 the Proceeding is terminated.

3 22. Upon written request made within thirty (30) days after the settlement
4 or other termination of the Proceeding, the undersigned Parties shall have thirty (30)
5 days to either (a) promptly return to counsel for each Designating Party all
6 Confidential Materials and Highly Confidential Materials, and all copies thereof
7 (except that counsel for each Party may maintain in its files, in continuing
8 compliance with the terms of this Stipulation and Protective Order, all work
9 product, and one copy of each pleading filed with the Court [and one copy of each
10 deposition together with the exhibits marked at the deposition])*, (b) agree with
11 counsel for the Designating Party upon appropriate methods and certification of
12 destruction or other disposition of such materials, or (c) as to any Documents,
13 Testimony, or other Information not addressed by sub-paragraphs (a) and (b), file a
14 motion seeking a Court order regarding proper preservation of such Materials. To
15 the extent permitted by law the Court shall retain continuing jurisdiction to review
16 and rule upon the motion referred to in sub-paragraph (c) herein. *[The bracketed
17 portion of this provision shall be subject to agreement between counsel for the
18 Parties in each case.]

19 23. After this Stipulation and Protective Order has been signed by counsel
20 for all Parties, it shall be presented to the Court for entry. Counsel agree to be bound
21 by the terms set forth herein with regard to any Confidential Materials or Highly
22 Confidential Materials that have been produced before the Court makes any ruling
23 that pertains to this Stipulation and Protective Order and as provided in paragraph
24 21 of this Stipulation and Protective Order.

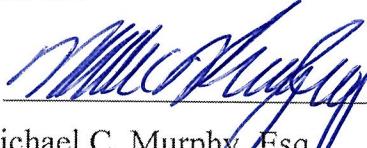
25 24. The Parties and all signatories to the Certification attached hereto as
26 Exhibit A agree to be bound by this Stipulation and Protective Order. In the event
27 that the Court modifies this Stipulation and Protective Order, or in the event that
28 the Court enters a different Order, the Parties agree to be bound by this Stipulation

1 and Protective Order until such time as the Court may enter such a different Order.
2 It is the Parties' intent to be bound by the terms of this Stipulation and Protective
3 Order so as to allow for immediate production of Confidential Materials and Highly
4 Confidential Materials under the terms herein.

5 This Stipulation and Protective Order may be executed in counterparts.
6

7 Dated: August 1, 2024
8

LAW OFFICES OF MICHAEL C.
MURPHY

9 By: 
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Michael C. Murphy, Esq.
Michael C. Murphy, Jr., Esq.
Attorneys for Defendant,
Patrick M. Byrne
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Dated: August 1, 2024
15

WINSTON & STRAWN, LLP

16 By: 
17

Abbe D. Lowell, Esq.
Paul B. Salvaty, Esq.
Attorneys for Plaintiff,
Robert Hunter Biden
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19
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21

Dated: August 1, 2024
22

EARLY SULLIVAN WRIGHT
GIZER & McRAE, LLP

23 By: 
24

Bryan M. Sullivan, Esq.
Zachary C. Hansen
Attorneys for Plaintiff,
Robert Hunter Biden
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28

1 Dated: August 2, 2024

ROBERT HUNTER BIDEN

2 By:

3 Robert Hunter Biden, Plaintiff

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6 Dated: August ___, 2024

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8 PATRICK M. BYRNE

9 By:

10 Patrick M. Byrne, Defendant

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LAW OFFICES OF MICHAEL C. MURPHY
2625 Townsgate Road, Suite 330
Westlake Village, CA 91361

ORDER

GOOD CAUSE APPEARING, the Court hereby approves this Stipulation and Protective Order.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

Dated:

The Honorable Patricia Donahue
United States Magistrate Judge

LAW OFFICES OF MICHAEL C. MURPHY
2625 Townsgate Road, Suite 330
Westlake Village, CA 91361

STIPULATION FOR PROTECTIVE ORDER AND ORDER

EXHIBIT A

CERTIFICATION RE: CONFIDENTIAL DISCOVERY MATERIALS

I hereby acknowledge that I, _____ [NAME],

[POSITION AND

EMPLOYER], am about to receive Confidential Materials and/or Highly Confidential Materials supplied in connection with the Proceeding, United States District Court of the Central District, Case No. 2:23-cv-09430-SVW-PD. I certify that I understand that the Confidential Materials and/or Highly Confidential Materials are provided to me subject to the terms and restrictions of the Stipulation and Protective Order that the parties and counsel have entered into in this Proceeding. I have been given a copy of the Stipulation and Protective Order; I have read it, and I agree to be bound by its terms.

I understand that the Confidential Materials and Highly Confidential Materials, as defined in the Stipulation and Protective Order, including any notes or other records that may be made regarding any such materials, shall not be Disclosed to anyone except as expressly permitted by the Stipulation and Protective Order. I will not copy or use, except solely for the purposes of this Proceeding, any Confidential Materials or Highly Confidential Materials obtained pursuant to this Stipulation and Protective Order, except as provided therein or otherwise ordered by the Court in the Proceeding.

I further understand that I am to retain all copies of all Confidential Materials and Highly Confidential Materials provided to me in the Proceeding in a secure manner, and that all copies of such materials are to remain in my personal custody until termination of my participation in this Proceeding, whereupon the copies of such materials will be returned to counsel who provided me with such materials.

I declare under penalty of perjury, under the laws of the United States of America, that the foregoing is true and correct. Executed this _____ day of _____, 20_____, at _____.

DATED: _____ BY: _____

Signature

Title

Address

City, State, Zip

Telephone Number

5779403.1

STIPULATION FOR PROTECTIVE ORDER AND ORDER